

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Applicants cancel all non-method claims, retain claim 7, amend claim 7, and add claims depending from claim 7 corresponding to claims 3, 4 and 6.

With respect to the limitation to claim 7, see the paragraph bridging pages 21/22 of the specification and the beginning of EXAMPLES 1-5 at page 24 of the specification, lines 11-20.

With respect to claims 12 and 13, see claims 3 and 4 as filed.

With respect to claim 14, see the specification at page 17, lines 10-14 and the paragraph bridging pages 21/22 of the specification.

Claim 7 was rejected in the Action of May 23, 2005 as obvious over U.S. 5,294,444 Nakamura et al (Nakamura), in view of WO 98/27958 Kaneko et al (Kaneko).

Since Kaneko is essentially relied upon only to teach specific ceramides, it appears quite clear that the Examiner in rejecting claim 7 must have been relying upon Nakamura, and Applicants focus on Nakamura with respect to new claim 7.

Applicants submit that the patentability of claim 7 establishes the patentability of claims 12, 13 and 14.

Referring to the present application in the paragraph bridging pages 21/22 and the first full paragraph on page 22, it is quite clear that the process set forth in claim 7 is a preferred method of obtaining the clear aqueous ceramide composition of the present invention.

Referring to Nakamura, Nakamura contains no teaching or suggestion that the method of the present invention as set forth in claim 7 can be used to obtain a clear aqueous composition

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which will yield a clear aqueous ceramide composition as set forth in claim 7. With respect to Kaneko, Applicants do not believe that Kaneko contains any meaningful relevant disclosure on methods of preparation, and in any case does not in any meaningful fashion expand upon the teaching of Kaneko.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance is requested.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

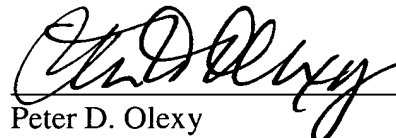
Respectfully submitted,

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